

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSCE-00 NSC-10 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 SAJ-01

RSR-01 /057 W

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R 241719Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6513

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 4822

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XG, US, EEC, PFOR, UNGA, MASS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FONMIN

REF: STATE 164636

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ RODO AT SAN SEBASTIAN ON AUGUST 22. DISCUSSION, WHICH LASTED ABOUT 40 MINUTES FOLLOWS:

A. SECSTATE ROGERS REPLACEMENT BY DR. KISSINGER. I CONFIRMED THE REPORT OF THE PRESS. LOPEZ RODO HAD NO QUESTIONS, BUT SAID THE DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

B. TRAVEL PLANS FOR UNGA SEPT. MEETING. LOPEZ RODO WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK ON 24 SEPT. AND WILL RETURN SPAIN ON 2 OCT. HE WILL MAKE HIS ADDRESS ON 25 SEPT. FOLLOWING GROMYKO. DURING STAY IN CONUS, WHICH WILL BE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT ON HIS NEW JOB, HE ASKS TO HAVE A FAIRLY LONG MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER (ASSUMING HE WILL BE IN OFFICE THEN), TO COVER WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS (NOT MENTIONED, EXCEPT FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE "NEW COOPERATION AND DEFENSE TREATY". IT IS CLEAR THAT SPANISH WILL INSIST ON TREATY RETHER THAN AGREEMENT. HE ALSO WANTS TO MAKE
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A SHORT COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT NIXON. I STRONGLY

RECOMMEND THAT THIS BE ARRANGED.

C. FONMIN REFERRED TO THE PRESS REPORTS ANNOUNCING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EUROPE. I TOLD HIM, AS PER REF A. THAT VISIT PLANS NOT DECIDED YET, AND THAT PRESS REPORTS HAD NOT OFFICIAL STANDING. HE SMILED, REFERRING TO IT AS A LEAK AND I COUNTERED BY SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE A FISHING EXPEDITION, NOT UNCOMMON IN U.S. PRESS REPORTS OF THIS NATURE. HE ASKED THAT I REITERATE GENERAL FRANCO'S INVITATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT SPAIN DURING EUROPEAN TRIP. INCIDENTALLY, ON 16TH HE HAD AUDIENCE WITH GEN. FRANCO AND LATTER ASKED HIM TO REPEAT INVITATION TO PRESIDENT VIA ME. LOPEZ RODO SAID AGAIN PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE WARMEST RECEPTION IN SPAIN, AND VOLUNTEERED THAT WITH ALL THE ATTACKS THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO, IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR HIM AND THE U.S. THAT HE RECEIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT OVERSEAS. I AGREE THAT RECEPTION WOULD BE WARM AND FRIENDLY. IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE, IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, IN MADRID AND THE PROVINCES, I HAVE BEEN GIVEN NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BEFORE THESE "MERCILESS AND UNJUST" ATTACKS, WHICH ARE SEEN AS IRRESPONSIBLE. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT TO INCLUDE A VISIT TO SPAIN, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS, WILL SET AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP AT THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF OUR AGREEMENT.

D. I ASKED ABOUT MATTERS HE WILL DISCUSS WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DURING LATTER'S TWO DAY VISIT NEXT WEEK AND SAID I ASSUMED ONE WOULD BE THE BASQUE QUESTION. HE CONFIRMED THIS AND SAID SPAIN HAS HAD GOOD COLLABORATION FROM THE FRENCH IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY THE REMOVAL OF BASQUE ACTIVISTS FROM AREAS NEAR THE FRONTIER. LATELY, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS. FRENCH HAVE REFUSED TO EXTRADITE THE KIDNAPPERS OF INDUSTRIALIST HUARTE, ON GROUNDS THAT OFFENSE WAS POLITICAL. HE WILL REMONSTRATE STRONGLY WITH JOBERT, SINCE HUARTE DOES NOT HAVE OR HAS HAD ANY POLITICAL AFFILIATION. OFFENSE IS CLEARLY A CRIMINAL ONE AND HE HOPES TO IMPRESS ON JOBERT THAT FRENCH ARE BEING SHORT-SIGHTED IN THEIR ATTITUDE, SINCE THEY CAN SURELY EXPECT SOME BASQUE TERRORISM IN THE FUTURE OF THE SAME TYPE EXPERIENCED

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IN SPAIN NOW. MANY EXTREME BASQUE NATIONALISTS THINK OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY AS INCLUDING THE PROVINCES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONTIER AS THEIR DREAM OF AN INDEPENDENT OR AUTONOMOUS STATE. HE WILL FURTHER POINT OUT THAT IN CONTRAST WITH FRANCE'S ATTITUDE, SWITZERLAND, A DEMOCRATIC STATE, HAS GRANTED EXTRADITION TO SPAIN OF THE KIDNAPPER OF MOISE TSHOMBE. THERE MIGHT BE SOME ARGUMENT THAT TSHOMBE'S KIDNAPPING HAD A POLITICAL CONTEXT, ALTHOUGH STILL A CRIME,

BUT THIS COULD NOT BE APPLIED TO HUARTE'S. LOPEZ RODO THEN SAID THERE WOULD BE OTHER TOPICS BUT ONLY VOLUNTEERED THAT JOBERT AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAVE GREAT UNEASINESS AND DISTRUST OF THE RECENT NIXON-BREZHNEV TALKS. THEY VIEW THEM AS A FIRST STEP IN THE BIG POWERS MAKING DEALS AT THE EXPENSE OF EUROPE, WITH THE PURPOSE OF ATTAINING THE FINLANDIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPE. WHEN I QUERIED HIM FURTHER, HE SAID THE CONCERN IS THAT THERE WILL BE AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW U.S. TROOPS, AND SEE EVEN GREATER DANGER IN THE NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENTS WHICH COULD WELL RESULT IN WEAKING THE NUCLEAR DETERRENT ON WHICH EVERYTHING DEPENDS. (LOPEZ RODO HAD RECENT TALK WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR GILLET AND THIS VIEW MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED ON TO HIM BY GILLET AT THAT TIME.)

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6514

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 4822

LIMDIS

E. I ASKED WHAT IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FOR SPAIN HE THOUGHT WOULD BE BROUGHT UP AT UNGA, SUCH AS SPANISH SAHARA. HE DID NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY BUT SAID SPAIN'S POSITION HAD BEEN CORRECT AND HAD WIDE UN SUPPORT: SPAIN SUPPORTS SELF-DETERMINATION OF SAHARAN PEOPLE. SPAIN HAS ALSO MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVING THE WELL BEING OF SAHARANS, SPENDING SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF MONEY IN INFRASTRUCTURE, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ETC., FOR BENEFIT OF SAHARANS, WITH NO THOUGHT OF EXPLOITATION. IT IS ESTABLISHED BY LAW THAT ALL INCOME FROM EXPLOITATION OF SAHARAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING

PHOSPHATES, WILL BE SPEND IN SAHARA FOR BENEFIT OF SAHARAN PEOPLE AND NOT ACCRUE TO SPAIN. OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN SAHARA, HE SAID BUT SPAIN IS COMMITTED TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARANS. I SEE NO REASON FOR SPAIN TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT AT UNGA AND THE MINISTER DID NOT INDICATE ANY CONCERN THAT IT MIGHT BE BROUGHT UP BY ONE OR MORE OF THE ARABS.

F. FONMIN THEN MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF GIBRALTAR, GIVING THE IMPRESSION, SINCE HE DID IT IN THE CONTEXT OF MY QUESTION ON THE UNGA, THAT THIS WILL BE (AS COULD BE EXPECTED) A MAJOR TOPIC OF HIS INTERVENTION ON SEPT 25. HE AGAIN SAID THAT U.S. COULD USE ITS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH THE U.K. TO CAUSE LATTER TO CHANGE ITS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.
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I REPEATED THE U.S. POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON THE ISSUE, THAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY PASSED HIS REQUEST TO SECRETARY AND RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF U.S. STAND. HE THEN ASKED THAT NEW SECRETARY BE APPRISED OF HIS REQUEST. (I AM SURE THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS AT UNGA MEETING WITH SECRETARY). HE EXPECTS TO SEE U.K. AMBASSADOR RUSSELL ON 25 AUGUST AND HOPES RUSSELL WILL HAVE SOME U.K. PROPOSALS THEN. HE THOUGH RUSSELL UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AS BEING ONE OF SOVEREIGNTY FOR THE SPANISH, AND OF PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH, WHICH HE BELIEVES COULD BE RESOLVED BUT BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IT. SPAIN WAS WILLING TO TURN THE BASE BACK TO THE BRITISH IMMEDIATELY ON A LONG TERM BASIS. A GIBRALTAR BASE IS OF NO VALUE TO U.K. OR FOR THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE IF IT DOES NOT HAVE SPANISH SUPPORT, HE SAID, AND U.S. SHOULD CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SITUATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE DEFENSE OF THE WEST. (I UNDERSTAND FROM U.K. AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL OF HIS OWN TO LONDON TO PROVIDE SOME MOVEMENT FROM THE CURRENT IMPASSE.)

G. FONMIN SPOKE WITH UNACCUSTOMED ANGER AND ANNOYANCE ABOUT THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON THE BRITISH-U.S. SALE OF HARRIER AIRCRAFT TO SPAIN. HE MENTIONED THE STRONG SPANISH PRESS REACTION TO THE ARTICLE WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT GOVERNMENT INSPIRED. HE MENTIONED ABC, YA AND LA VANGARDIA WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS NON-GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND THAT THE EDITORS OF THE LATTER TWO HAD TELEPHONED THEIR DISGUST AND SUGGESTION THAT OTHER U.S. NEWSPAPERS SHOULD COUNTER THE NEW YORK TIMES BY PUBLISHING THE FACTS. LOPEZ RODO SAID SPAIN'S ACQUISITION OF THE HARRIERS HELPS WESTERN DEFENSE (WITH WHICH I AGREE) AND THAT ATTACKS ON SPAIN FOR OBTAINING THIS CAPABILITY CAN ONLY BE DAMAGING TO OUR RELATIONS, SINCE AMERICAN PUBLIC GETS A DISTORTED VIEW OF THE FACTS. HE INTIMATED THAT I COULD GET THE WORD TO FRIENDS IN OTHER

PAPERS, NOT OFFICIALLY OF COURSE. I GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT
TO THE IDEA.
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